

Amusements

POLI'S

Bobby Walthour, the world's premier bicycle rider, is "in our midst," appearing as the headline attraction at Poli's, the last half of the week, in an unusual vaudeville novelty. Walthour, who claims many championships, gives an interesting exhibition race against time and does a mile on a stationary racing machine in a little more than a minute. As a climax to the unique offering, he beats a race horse, ridden by a girl, in a half-mile brush. The act is a real novelty and Walthour was warmly received. Incidentally, he challenges any Bridgeport racing bicyclist or racing horsemen to a brush for a forfeit during his stay here.

Ralph Kellard & Dorothy Green are starred in the feature photoplay "Her Mother's Secret," a most interesting drama in five parts. The theme is intensely dramatic and there is action throughout. The blowing up of a big gasoline launch was one of many thrills in the story.

Dierro, the accomplished accordionist, proved as welcome as ever. He is a real artist and his selection of classic and popular airs won him continued favor and he oblige with successive encores.

Choate & Harris company in a comedy drama called "The Mayor and the Mauler," had an entertaining playlet that pleased immensely and Fenton & Greene with their burlesque magic act introducing some fine eccentric dancing were very good.

Gray & Klumper in bits of musical comedy and a clever line of nonsense made a big hit, and the Hamilton Brothers in a knockabout skit, interspersed with rapid-fire water color paintings, won favor.

Other photoplays completed the very enjoyable bill.

EMPIRE

Although not designed for the purpose of propaganda against political dishonesty and as an exposure of the league which exists in many places between dishonest contractors and politicians, the "Lucky Five" part Paramount masterpiece, "The Immigrant," which introduces Valeska Suratt for the first time as a star of the shadow stage, which will head the programs at the above theatre today and tomorrow, contains a severe indictment against this form of graft.

Valeska Suratt appears in the title role of a young peasant girl from Russia who has come to this country to seek freedom from oppression.

An all star cast of Lasky players appear in support of the star and the production is one that will long remain vivid in the minds of those who witness it.

An all feature program will be shown in conjunction with this feature.

LYRIC

Cecil Spooner and her great company will next week present another fine holiday play, one of Broadway's best, and most recent of positive success, "The Dummy," and in which the popular little star will be seen in a part of a "boy detective." "The Dummy" is a plausible and genuine detective story, and the following lines describe it, in part, and offers a part which Cecil Spooner will surprise her strongest admirers, in the character of "The Dummy."

The new experiment of a comic detective play turns out most happily. Mr. O'Higgins and Miss Ford have written a drama destined to enjoy long popularity. The story is interesting, the acting is excellent and it is often familiar and the idea of the ambitious youth successfully outwitting the experienced crooks most divertingly carried out. All the elements of success seem to be possessed by the four acts of the new play. In the detective's office in the New York hotel, in the closed gambling house or in the Catskills retreat of the kidnapers there are the requisite alternations of fun and interest that serve to endear a play to the public heart. It is all of the theatre, stacy, but it is strong in the suggestion of the world of illusion which remains in spite of all efforts to banish it, the world to which the theatregoer is likely to be happiest.

PLAZA

It would be almost impossible to pick a headline vaudeville attraction that could create a more favorable impression or cause more comment than Palfrey, Hall & Brown which holds that position on the Plaza's program for the latter half of the week. The act is put on by two men and a woman, the latter being a striking example of feminine grace and charm who goes through a series of classic and national dances that holds the audience in delighted admiration. One of the men does some clever work on the bicycle and gets in some neat ground tumbling stunts that are greatly appreciated, while the other member burlesques the characteristics of several famous stars and handles a bicycle in a manner that brings him rounds of applause. The act is handsomely staged, is finished and artistic. The Victoria Four in a repertoire of comedy songs hits that gives them splendid opportunity to display a quartet of beautifully toned voices that harmonize in delightful fashion have an important spot, but their songs and their stinging isn't all, for they have a knack in putting over comedy quips that would make them favorites if they couldn't warble a note.

The remainder of the vaudeville was up to the standard and included Hibbett & Meyers in a comedy singing and talking skit entitled "Some Honey Moon" and the Musical Coattas in a novel musical far-tray that introduced a severe, pleasing surprise.

"Jordan is a Hard Road" a five part Triangle play with Frank Campeau, the noted dramatic actor who originated the "heavy role" in the "Virginian" and Dorothy Gish, the dainty star in the leading roles, is being shown.

"Fatty and the Broadway Stars" a two part Keystone featuring William Collier, Sam Bernard, Weber & Fields, Mack Sennett, Ford Sterling, Roscoe Arbuckle and many other celebrities is attracting much attention.

The State Department at Washington has made another protest against the presence of British cruisers off New York and other American ports.

CHRISTMAS HOPE AND WREATHS OF LAUREL
JOHN RECK & SON

COUNTRY PAYS HEED TO ESTABROOK'S CANDIDACY FOR THE PRESIDENCY



HENRY D. ESTABROOK

Among the most interesting phases of the national political situation is the movement that has brought Henry D. Estabrook of New York and Nebraska so prominently to the front as a candidate for the Republican Presidential nomination. First spoken of as a presidential possibility less than six months ago, Mr. Estabrook is today one of the leading Republican candidates. Mr. Estabrook, who is an orator of note, has made speeches in important cities in various parts of the United States. He is a successful lawyer, a man of dignity and fine physical presence and a student of government, economic and social problems. He is opposed to the tariff policy of the administration and was one of the first men to outline a concrete program of national defense. He presented his defense plan in a speech before the American Bankers' Association on Sept. 8 at Seattle. His address was called by the Seattle Times "one of the most remarkable addresses ever delivered in the north-west."

ROMANTIC SPOTS IN ANCIENT VENICE NOW RESOUND WITH PREPARATIONS FOR GRIM WAR

Place Where Desdemona Waited for Othello Shelters Soldiers and Marines in Great Struggle of the Old World.

Venice, Dec. 23.—Take a gondola for a trip through the Grand Canal during these war days, and one sees many changes in the centers of interest well-known to travelers and readers—the war-dress of the homes of Lord Byron and the composer Wagner, of the poet Browning and the American writer W. D. Howells, the romantic palace where Desdemona waited for Othello, and further along, in the market quarter near the Rialto bridge, the house of Shylock, the quaint building standing there unchanged today, but now used as a butcher's shop where a lusty Italian butcher exacts Shylock war prices of 90 cents a kilo for the round of fish, dealt over the counter.

Starting from the quay San Marco, the broad lagoons entering the Grand Canal have an air of martial and naval preparation rather than the usual carnival aspect which marks this center. The quays are lined with soldiers and sailors, and the gondolas are carrying great loads of war supplies and munitions. The sight of the troops and marines from point to point while the launches from the warships dart in and out among the gondolas.

Ordinarily there are 2,600 gondolas in regular service—600 private and 2,000 public—but only a very few of these remain in use owing to the terror inspired by the bomb raids. Most of the wealthy residents have hurriedly left for the south, and there are no tourists to make use of the public gondolas. Only one first-class hotel remains open, and half of it is given over to a hospital for the wounded brought in from the nearby fighting lines.

Entering the Grand Canal, the house of Desdemona, the Rialto bridge stands out on the left, but always with their war trappings, for here is located the headquarters of the army Red Cross, where most of the work of the Red Cross hospitals is done. The palace Venier next to the church is similarly used for army hospital administration, and the Red Cross flags are flying everywhere, as a warning of immunity from bomb raids. Further up the Canal on the right is the house of Desdemona. Just what Desdemona did in her day is a matter of tradition and of Shakespearean romance. Now the old palace is occupied by a rich merchant family who have fled to the south; the curtains are drawn, the lower windows guarded by steel shutters and the gardens neglected.

On the left of the Canal is a row of palace soft occupied by prominent American families. Two of these, the palace Balbi-Valler and the Polignac—are closed and closely shuttered, while most of the others in the quarter are partially abandoned. Opposite this group is the palace Follier, where W. D. Howells lived while he wrote his scenes from Venetian life. It is one of the few places still showing life and activity, and the well-kept gardens are full of flowers which hang into the canals flanking it in front and along one side. Just across the Grand Canal is the palace Rencione where Robert Browning lived and died. Usually this is a very gay quarter, with crowds of gondolas passing and the palaces alive with brilliant entertainment. But now all is silent and lugubrious, and the few gondolas creep along like Indian canoes on a deserted river.

One touch of life has been given to this quarter by some American artists who have pulled down an old palace and built a very showy front

reaching down to the water. The bright yellow and red are in marked contrast with the sombre palaces all around. The military escort accompanying the party pointed out an abandoned garden with a fine old palace built only to the first story.

"There is a story there," said the military escort. "That palace was begun by a son of one of the Doges. But the son got to gambling, lost all his money, and mortgaged the palace yet unfinished. And so the old Doges ordered that all work on the palace should be stopped, and never again started, as an everlasting warning against gambling. And there it stands today, after four hundred years, just as it stood when work was stopped, still giving its warning."

Further along on the left, is the gray stone building used as the Austrian Embassy until Italy declared war against Austria. The flagstaff which used to bear the Austrian colors, stretches over the canal, but the place is deserted. Up a side canal is the former German Embassy, also deserted. They were two of the most active centers of entertainment and official exchange during peace times.

In front of the former German Embassy dredges are now at work cleaning the canals. The dredging is mammoth work, done every 200 years in the Grand Canal, and every 20 years in the side canals. The present absence of traffic has given opportunity for this scouring. Great masses of black mud are brought up and carried out to sea. All the sewage of Venice empties into these canals, but the dredging of the canals sweep out the sewage and keep the city in a reasonably healthy condition.

In the market section of the city the Grand Canal shows its usual activity with the fish and vegetable markets surrounded by boats crowded with customers. Venice has recently finished a veritable palace for its fish market, and the military escort told how this had come about. "The Queen came here about five years ago," said he. "She was shown the beauties of the Grand Canal, and admired them greatly—all except the old fish market. She declared that was a blot and a scandal. And so the city decided to spend a million francs for a new market. And yet, the Queen has never since come here to see this building erected to meet her taste, and Venice is beginning to ask whether it was really worth while to spend so much money to meet a woman's whim."

The Rialto bridge is the very heart of the busy merchant quarter. This famous bridge is the only one known to have been made stronger by increasing its weight. It began to crack at the outset, and the architect said add more weight.

Bazaars and stores were therefore added all along the bridge, greatly increasing its weight, and this so steadied it that it stands secure today. One of the bomb raids was in this vicinity, and the people crowded the bridge and quays watching the aircraft as it dropped its bombs. One of them was the bomb which destroyed the famous Scalzi church nearby.

The house of Shylock, not far from the Rialto bridge, is a small two-story rough stone structure. The first floor is now a butcher shop. A price list of meat hung back of the butcher's stalls, the prices being fixed by the city. They showed the effect of war stringency in meat. Beef was set down at 90 cents a kilo, and beef and mutton at 60 to 80 cents. The cause of this, the butcher explained, was that the army used so much meat. The butcher was very suspicious while his price list was being examined, and finally said:

"Are you Germans? We have to be on the look-out always for Germans." The markets and stores in the vi-

AMUSEMENTS

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Under Auspices of Atlantic A. C.

Freddie Bosse vs. Bud Palmer, 15 rounds, 138 pounds, ringside, for lightweight championship of state.

Al Ketchel vs. Willie Condon, 10 rounds, 135 pounds, ringside.

Willie Andrews vs. Jerome Henracy, six rounds, 122 pounds, ringside.

Joe Terry Lee, referee. J. "Slim" Brennan, announcer. M. C. O'Connor, timer. Matchmaker, Mark (Duckey) Holmes.

Prices, ringside \$2. General admission \$1.

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AMUSEMENTS

PLAZA

TRIANGLE FEATURES FOR FRIDAY—SATURDAY

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—In— **"JORDAN IS A HARD ROAD"**

TRIANGLE FIVE-PART PLAY A Powerful Story Based Upon a Most Remarkable Theme—A Play to Remember

Palfrey, Hall and Brown Three Clever Performers in a Variety and Bicycle Novelty

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FIVE ACTS

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With An All Star Photoplay Program—

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